

THE BLACK WIDOW

CHAPTER 8

NOVA[®]

028



MARVEL

DUGGAN
BALDEON
PALLOT
CURIEL

15-year-old Sam Alexander's father, Jesse, used to tell him unbelievable stories about his adventures with the Nova Corps, an intergalactic peacekeeping force. When Jesse mysteriously disappeared, Sam found his father's old helmet and became the interstellar hero...

NOVA

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PREVIOUSLY...

Billions of years ago, an ancient race called the Viscardi were gifted an object of immense power by a Celestial -- The Black Vortex! The Vortex enhances the natural abilities of any who submit to it, but that power has been misused by many. The Viscardi waged war amongst themselves until none of them were left, save one: Gara. The last of the Viscardi, she was the first in all the cosmos to use the Black Vortex and has vowed to destroy it.

That's going to put her right in Nova's path, though. He's got the Black Vortex tucked safely under his arm.

Now, he just needs to figure out how to get it in the hands of the Guardians of the Galaxy. If he can survive that long, that is.



CHAPTER XXVIII: THE BLACK VORTEX

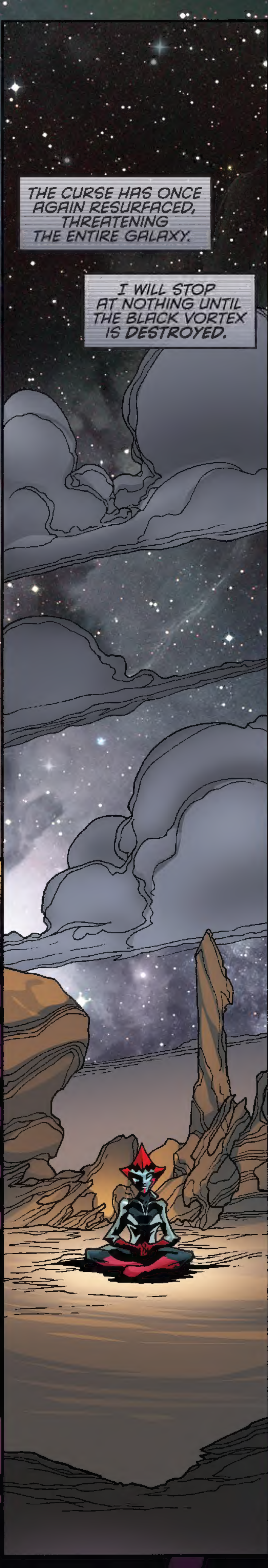
DEEP SPACE.
ONE WEEK AGO.

I AM GARA, THE LAST OF
MY CIVILIZATION. WE WERE
CONSUMED EONS AGO BY
AN OBJECT CALLED
THE BLACK VORTEX. I AM
AN ELDER OF THE UNIVERSE.

THE CURSE HAS ONCE
AGAIN RESURFACED,
THREATENING
THE ENTIRE GALAXY.

I WILL STOP
AT NOTHING UNTIL
THE BLACK VORTEX
IS DESTROYED.

I CAN ONLY PRAY
THAT AN OBJECT WITH
THE POWER TO TOPPLE
CIVILIZATIONS IS
IN SAFE HANDS.



ELSEWHERE IN
DEEP SPACE.
TODAY.

I HAD THE
ULTIMATE NULLIFIER
IN MY HAND ONCE.

IT FELT LIKE A
VINTAGE VIDEO GAME
CONTROLLER.
I DIDN'T RESPECT IT.

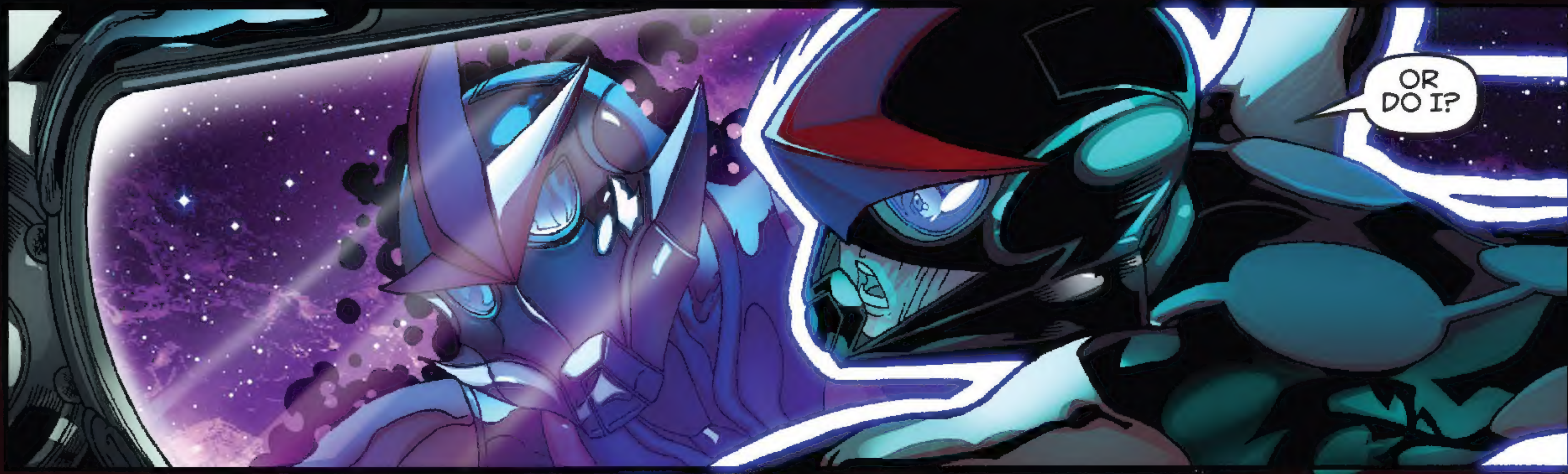
UNTIL I FIRED IT.
THE BLACK HOLE
THAT ERUPTED FROM
THE GUN DESTROYED
AN ENTIRE CHITAUURI
FLEET.

THAT'S WHEN
I STARTED
RESPECTING
THE ULTIMATE
NULLIFIER.

THE CRAZY MIRROR
UNDER MY ARM FROM
AN ALIEN ANTIQUES
ROADSHOW HAS THAT
SAME VIBE TO IT.

THIS IS ONE
TRIGGER I DON'T
WANT TO PULL...
I THINK.



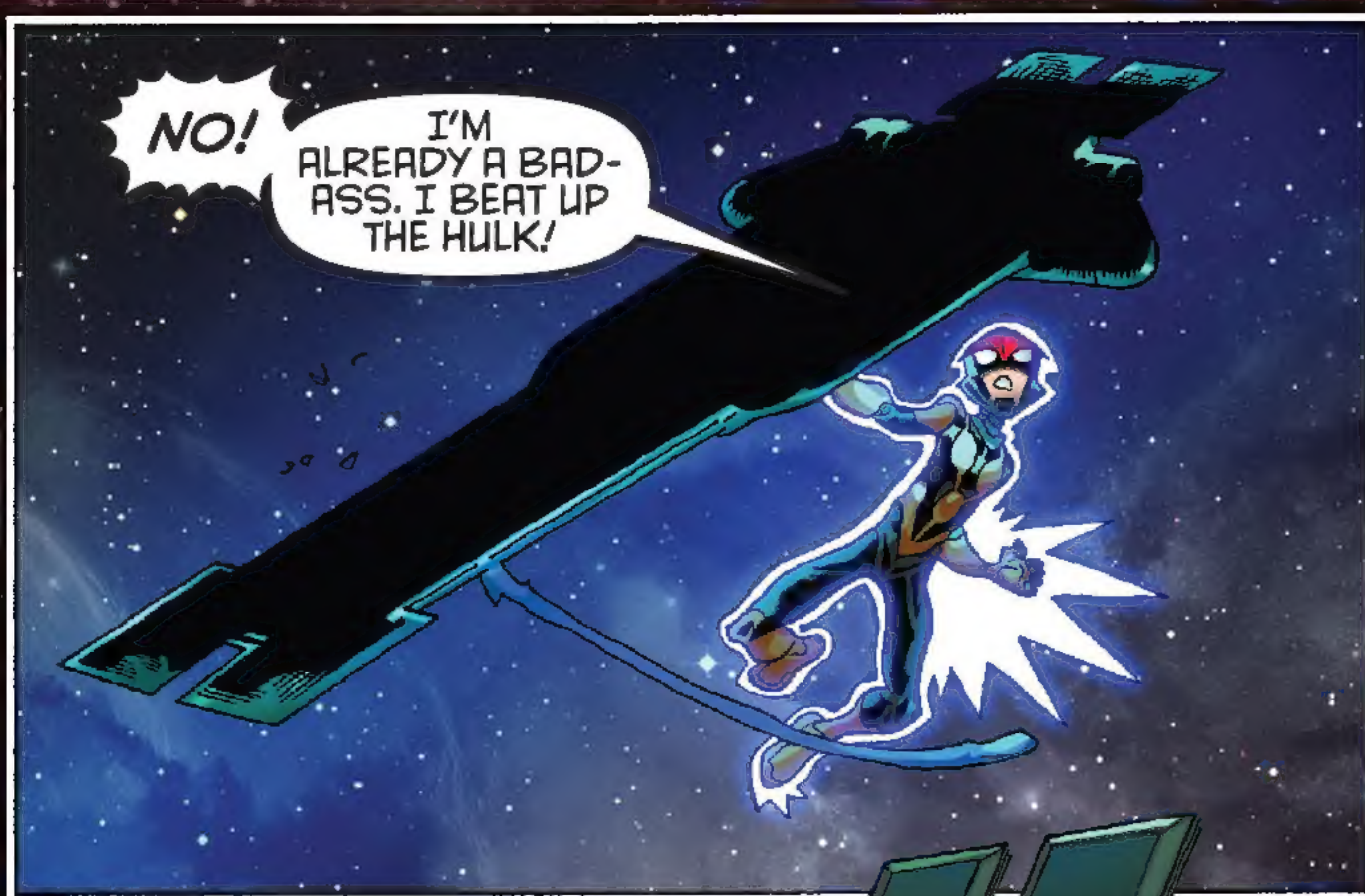


OR
DO I?



WHOA.

I COULD
DO ANYTHING
IF I JUST
REACHED OUT
AND...



NO!

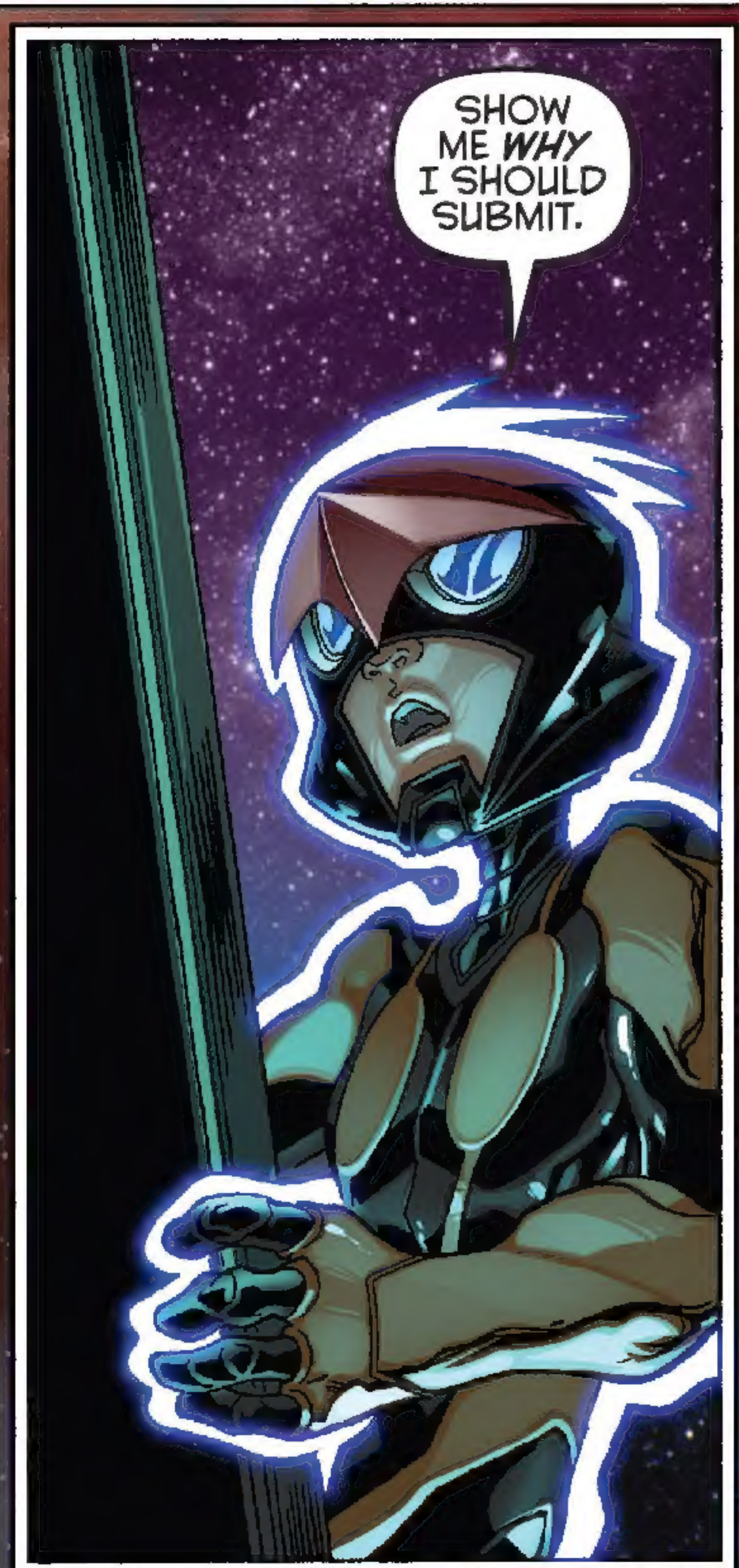
I'M
ALREADY A BAD-
ASS. I BEAT UP
THE HULK!



WHAT DO
I GET OUT OF
EVEN MORE
POWER?



OKAY, DON'T
SHOW ME
WHAT I WOULD
BECOME.



SHOW
ME *WHY*
I SHOULD
SUBMIT.



OKAY, SAVING MY DAD IS
A PRETTY GOOD REASON.

OH YEAH, THAT GUY.
HUH. HE'D BE A
PUSHOVER, TOO?

HEY, IS THAT
THE OTHER GUY?
THE OTHER NOVA?

WOW.

RICH RIDER...

...DYING?

HE'S BEEN
GONE SO LONG.
I GUESS... I GUESS
I EXPECTED THIS.

THE VORTEX SHOWS
ME RICH RIDER...

...AS A WARNING
NOT TO BECOME HIM?

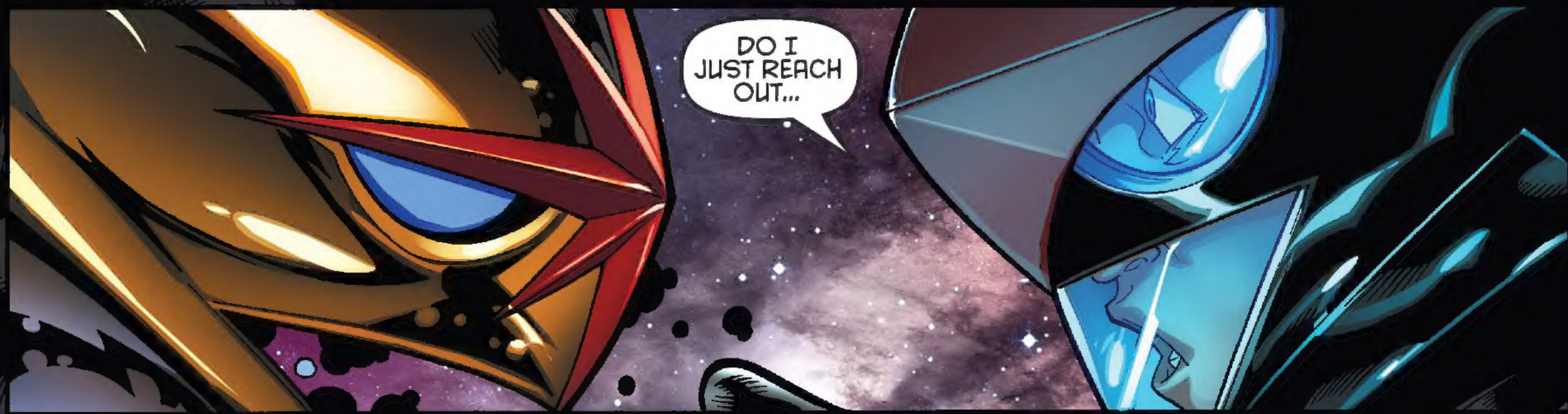
OKAY, YEAH,
I DON'T WANT
TO END UP LIKE
RIDER.



HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?



WHAT DO I DO?



DO I JUST REACH OUT...



...AND TOUCH IT?

HOW CAN I NOT DO IT?



WAIT.

MY DAD ALWAYS SAID NOTHING IN LIFE IS FREE.

'COURSE, DAD ALSO GOT SICK AT APPLEBAUM'S TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SEAFOOD BAR.

MOM TOLD HIM NOT TO. WE LIVE IN *ARIZONA*. THERE'S NOT EVEN A SEA NEAR US. WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

SO, HEY, VORTEX-- WHAT'S THE COST FOR THE POWER-UP?

"EVIDENTLY, *THANE*, THE BLACK VORTEX IS IN THE SOLE POSSESSION OF A YOUNG SIMPLETON FROM EARTH..."

MEANWHILE ON MISTER KNIFE'S
FLYING FORTRESS...

...AND WE MUST
RECOVER THE BLACK
VORTEX IF YOU'RE TO
HAVE YOUR REVENGE ON
THE GUARDIANS OF
THE GALAXY AND
THE MUTANTS FROM
EARTH.

THEY
SLAUGHTERED
YOUR FLOCK.

WH-WHY WOULD
THEY DO THAT?
MY PEOPLE WERE
HELPLESS! THOSE
BUTCHERS!



TO BRING YOU TO
YOUR KNEES AND TAKE YOU OUT
OF THIS FIGHT. THEY MURDERED
YOUR FLOCK SO YOU WOULD
FLY INTO A RAGE AND ATTACK THEM
BEFORE YOU COULD UNLOCK YOUR
COSMIC POTENTIAL WITH THE
BLACK VORTEX.

WE MUST
AVENGE YOUR
FLOCK.

HAVE THE
EARTHLINGS
SUCCEEDED?

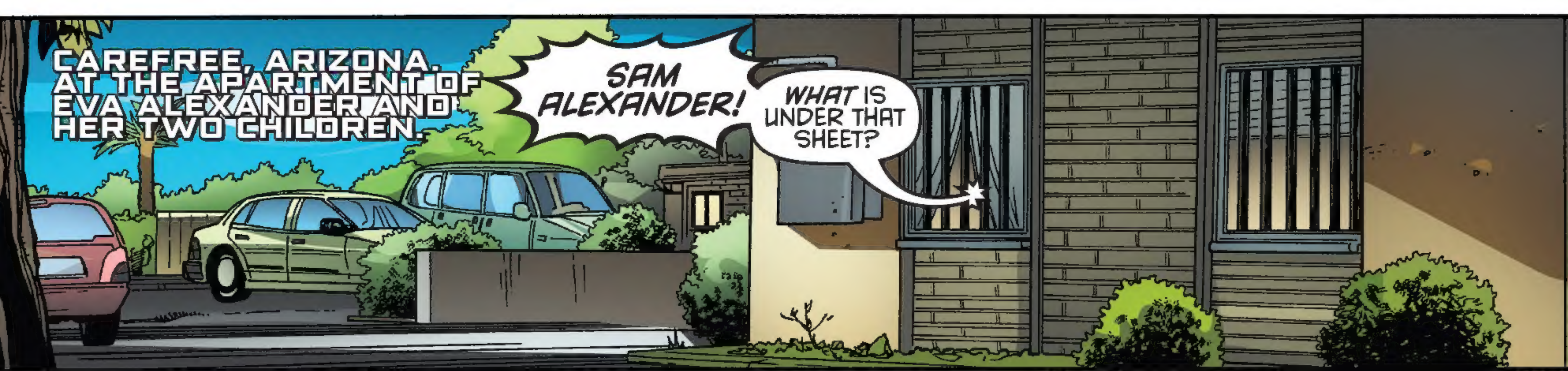
NO.



MY HEART IS
SHATTERED, BUT I WILL
STOP AT NOTHING TO
MAKE THEM PAY.

I WILL **CRUSH**
THE EARTHLINGS.
THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE
GALAXY THEY CAN HIDE
THE BLACK VORTEX
FROM ME...





CAREFREE, ARIZONA.
AT THE APARTMENT OF
EVA ALEXANDER AND
HER TWO CHILDREN.

SAM
ALEXANDER!

WHAT IS
UNDER THAT
SHEET?



NOTHING!

OKAY, FINE.
I GUESS A TEENAGE
BOY IS ENTITLED TO
HIS SECRETS.



OKAY,
STEP ONE:
MY AVENGERS
I.D. CARD.



I WONDER
IF THIS WORKS
AS A CREDIT CARD,
LIKE IF IT WAS AN
EMERGENCY.



GOOD EVENING,
THE AVENGERS
I.D. CARD IS NOT
A CHARGE CARD,
I'M AFRAID.

OH, HI.
IS THE VISION
AT HOME?



THE VISION IS UNAVAILABLE, MASTER NOVA. IS THERE SOMETHING THAT I CAN ASSIST YOU WITH?



NO, THANKS. I REALLY HAVE A JOB THAT'S ONLY FOR A DROID.

I'M AFRAID THAT A PERSON WOULD UH... IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN.

VERY WELL. I'LL ASK HIM TO CONTACT YOU WHEN HE RETURNS.

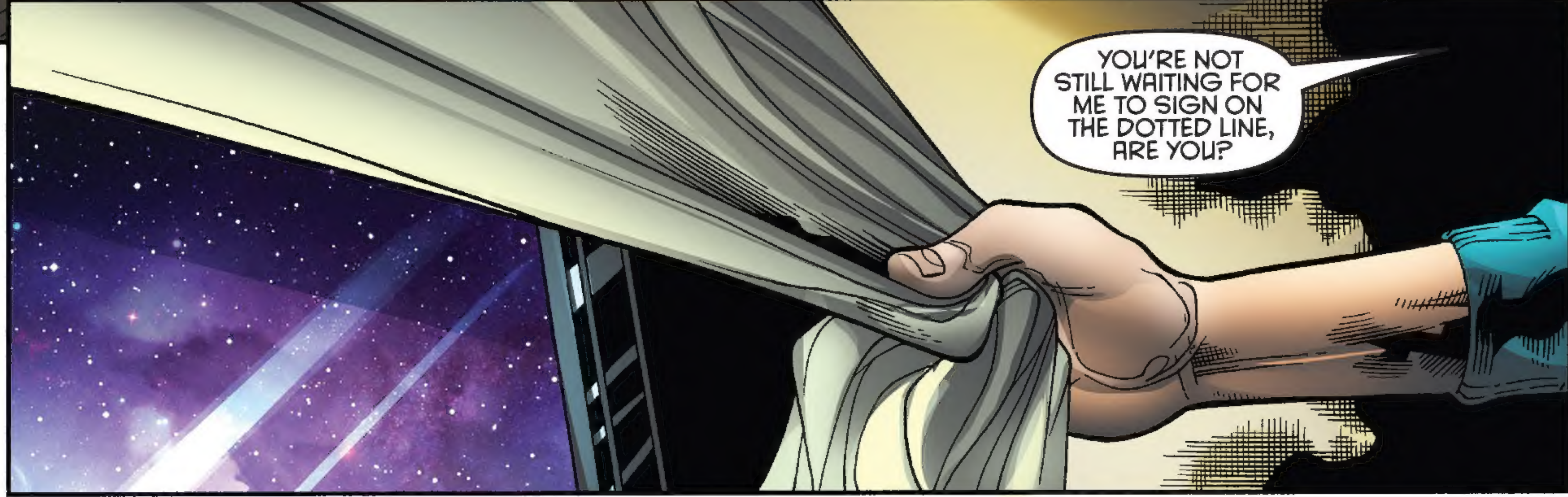


DON'T LET THE VISION HEAR YOU CALL HIM A "DROID".


OKAY, THANKS.



I GUESS MAYBE I CAN GET SOME BLACKLIGHTS TO GO WITH THE BLACK VORTEX AND JUST HIDE IT HERE IN MY ROOM?



YOU'RE NOT STILL WAITING FOR ME TO SIGN ON THE DOTTED LINE, ARE YOU?



OH, I GUESS
YOU ARE.

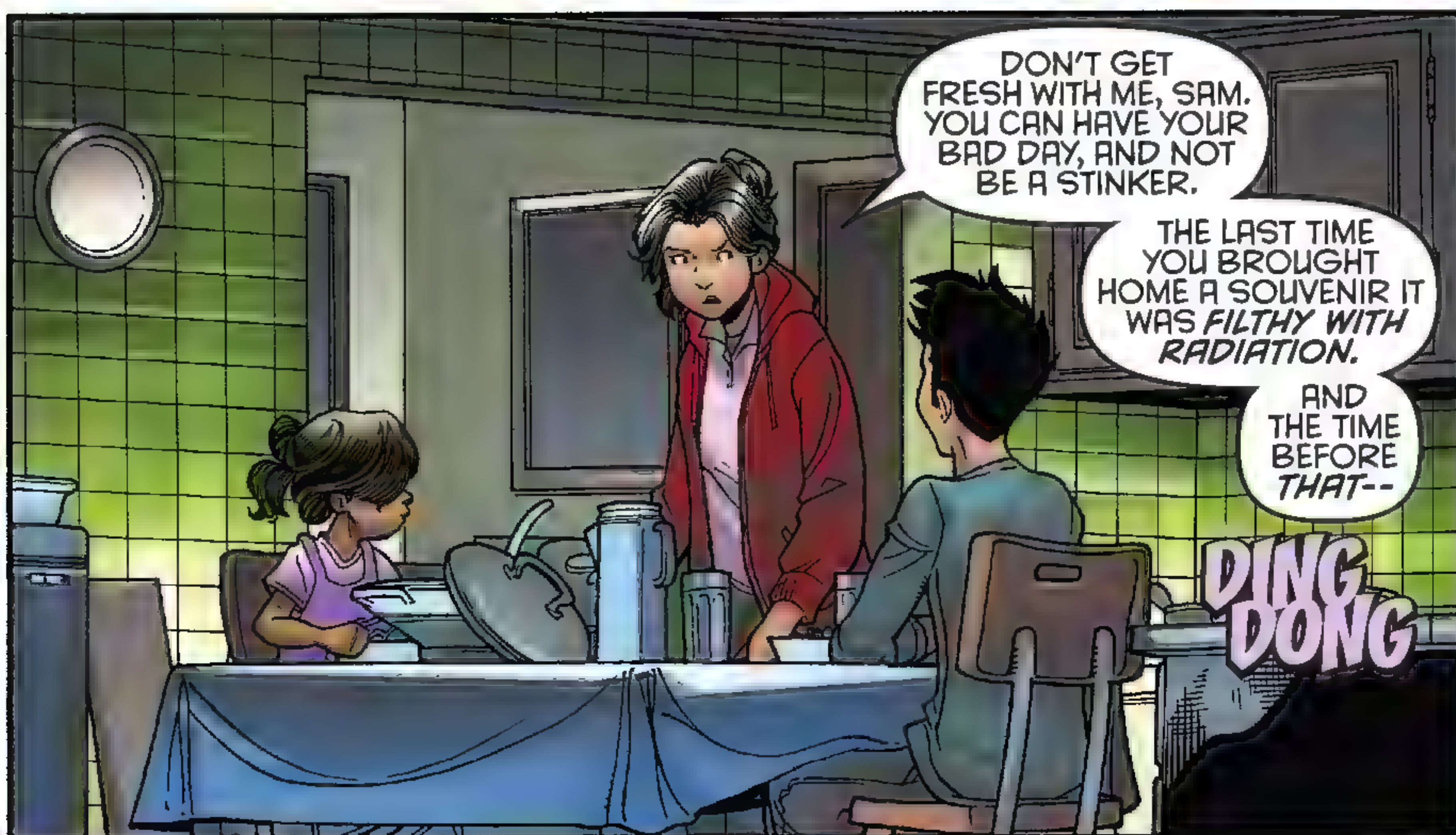
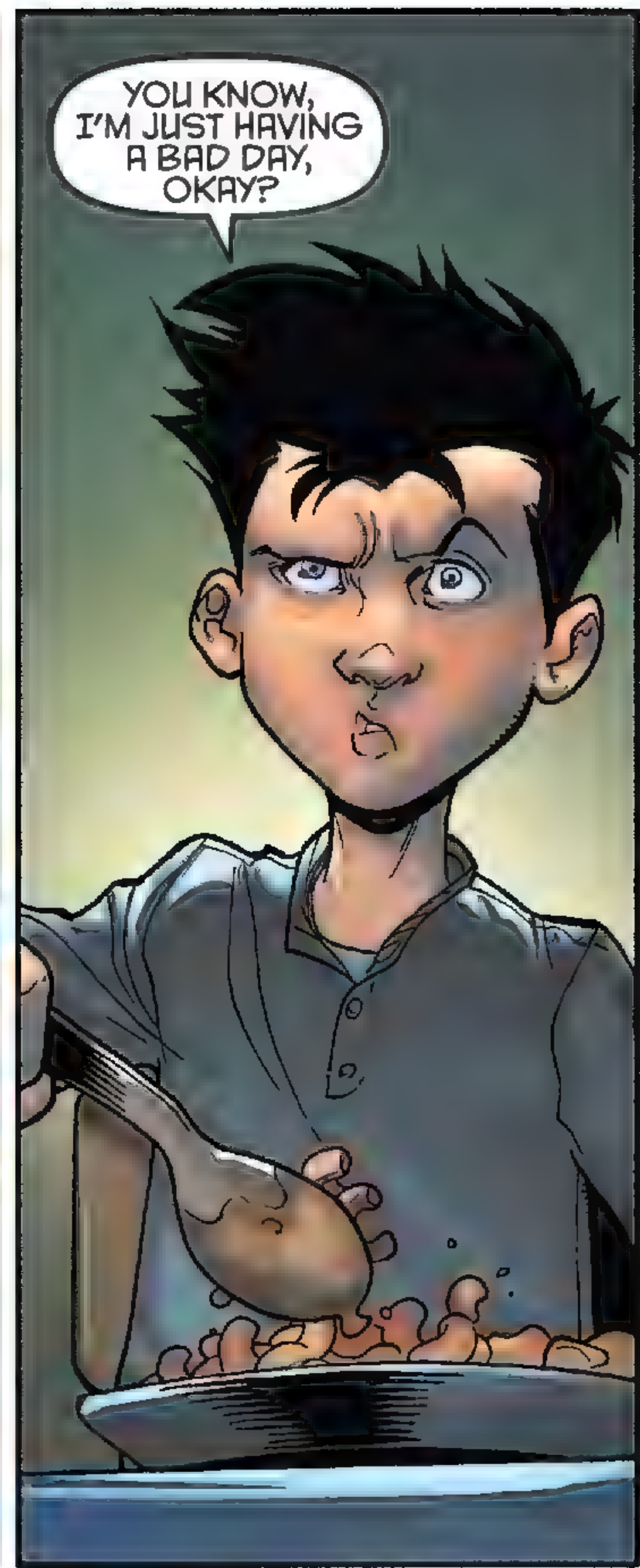
I COULD FIND DAD.
PROTECT THE PLANET...
I COULD FIX EVERYTHING.

I COULD--

SAM!
DINNER!

UHHN.

COMING!





GOOD EVENING,
I AM **THE COLLECTOR**.
THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE,
LEGRON, THE
TERRIBLE.

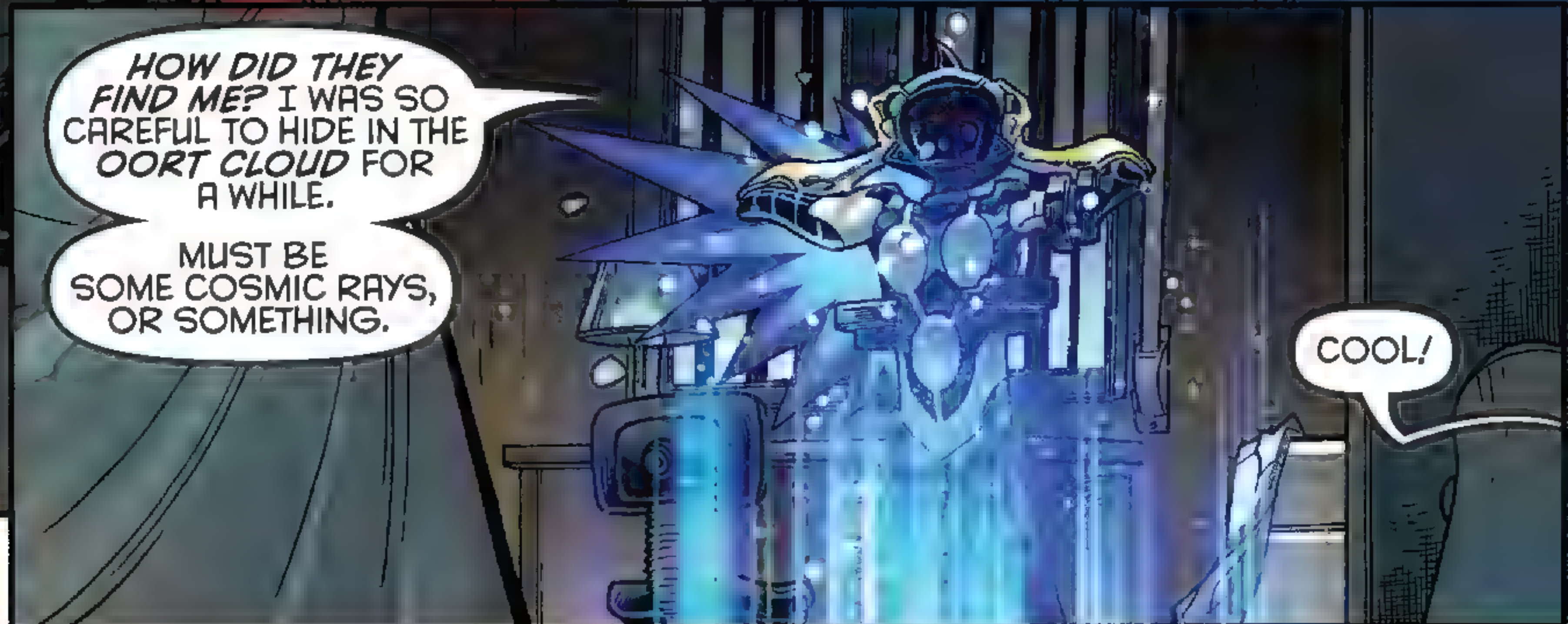
I'VE TRACKED
A VERY DESIRABLE
OBJECT HERE.

→SIGH→ CAN YOU...
COME BACK LATER?
WE'RE JUST EATING
DINNER.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT
DINNER IS? DO YOU HAVE THAT
WHERE YOU'RE FROM?

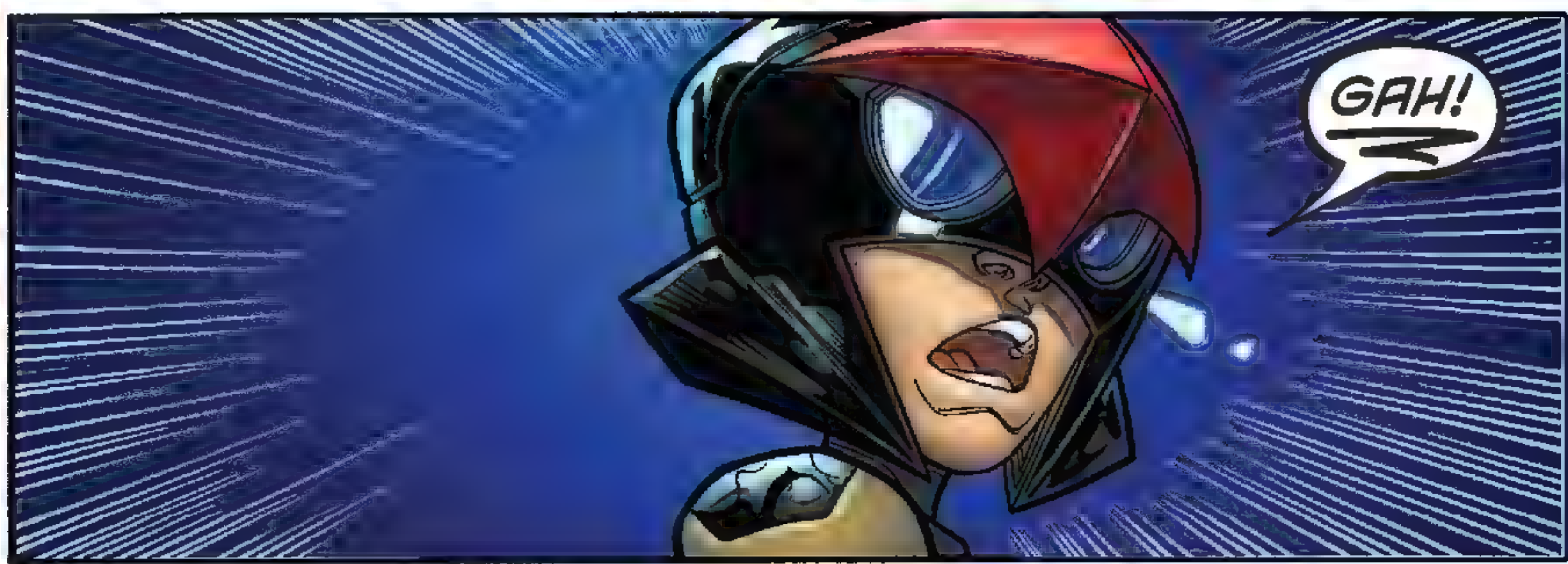
EATING?



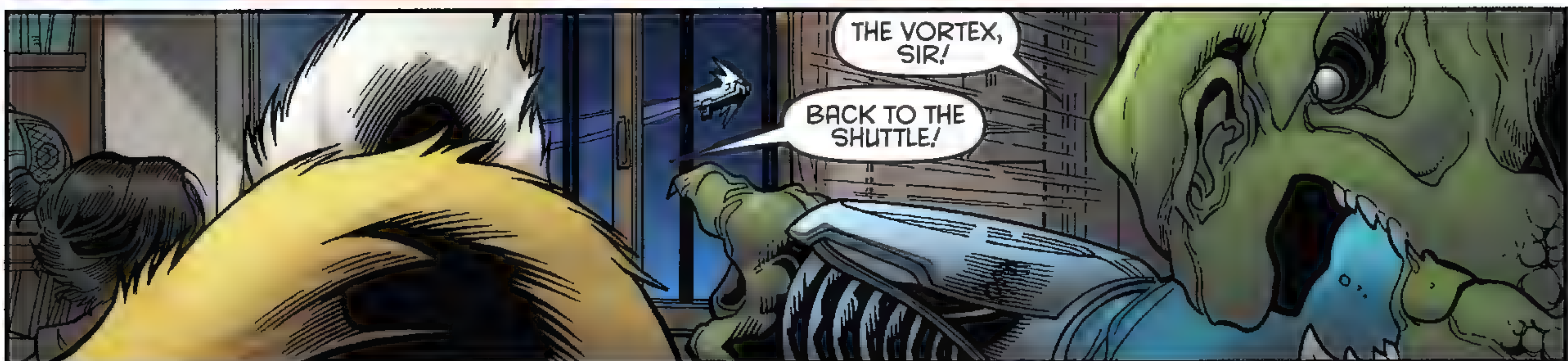
HOW DID THEY
FIND ME? I WAS SO
CAREFUL TO HIDE IN THE
OORT CLOUD FOR
A WHILE.

MUST BE
SOME COSMIC RAYS,
OR SOMETHING.

COOL!



GAH!



IF I COULDN'T TRUST
THE AVENGERS WITH THIS THING,
I'M SURE NOT GOING TO TRUST
THE BLACK EYED PEARLS BACK THERE.

STOP HIM!

WHOA!
HEY! HEY!

ALL RIGHT,
YOU WANT TO
BE JERKS--
FOLLOW ME.

HE'S GOING
TO SLINGSHOT
AROUND THE
MOON!

WHERE
DID HE GO?
DID HE WARP
AWAY?

DID
WE LOSE
THE BLACK
VORTEX?!

NO.
FELDERCARB!
HE STOPPED SHORT
AND NOW HE'S BEHIND
US. HANG ON, I CAN
TURN AROUND
AND--

YOU GUYS HAVEN'T
HEARD OF NOVA?
I BEAT UP THE HULK!
I'M A DOUBLE-SECRET
PROBATIONARY
AVENGER!

FWABOOM

DON'T TRY TO
FOLLOW ME!

DON'T LOSE HIM,
AND DON'T WORRY.
AVENGERS DON'T KILL.
WELL, MOST OF THEM
DON'T, ANYWAY.

THERE'S ONE PLACE
WHERE I KNOW I CAN
FIND SOME FRIENDS...

SPARTAX.

THE VORTEX--
I CAN SENSE ITS
APPROACH.



AND WITH IT, MY
REDEMPTION!



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT THAT
WAS ABOUT...

DON'T WORRY,
MA SAVAGE, MAYBE
GARA CAN RECOVER
THE BLACK VORTEX
AND THIS WILL
ALL BE OVER.



IN ORBIT ABOVE SPARTAX....

NO!

CLEVER BOY,
TAKING THE MIRROR
TO SPARTAX.

I'LL HAVE
TO RETHINK MY
STRATEGY.

LET US
WITHDRAW...

...AND RETURN WHEN
WE HAVE ENOUGH MIGHT
TO CHALLENGE THE *FLYING
FORTRESS*.

EVERYTHING
DEPENDS ON
FINDING THE
VORTEX!

HOW
CAN WE BE
OUTWITTED
BY A
CHILD?!

STAR-LORD?
HELLO?

WHOOOPS.



THIS IS BAD.

SORRY,
UH, WRONG
PLANET.

THIS IS
REALLY BAD.

GIVE
THAT HERE,
BOY.

MY FLOCK
WILL NOT HAVE
DIED IN VAIN!



CONGRATS?

I GOTTA
GO--BYE!

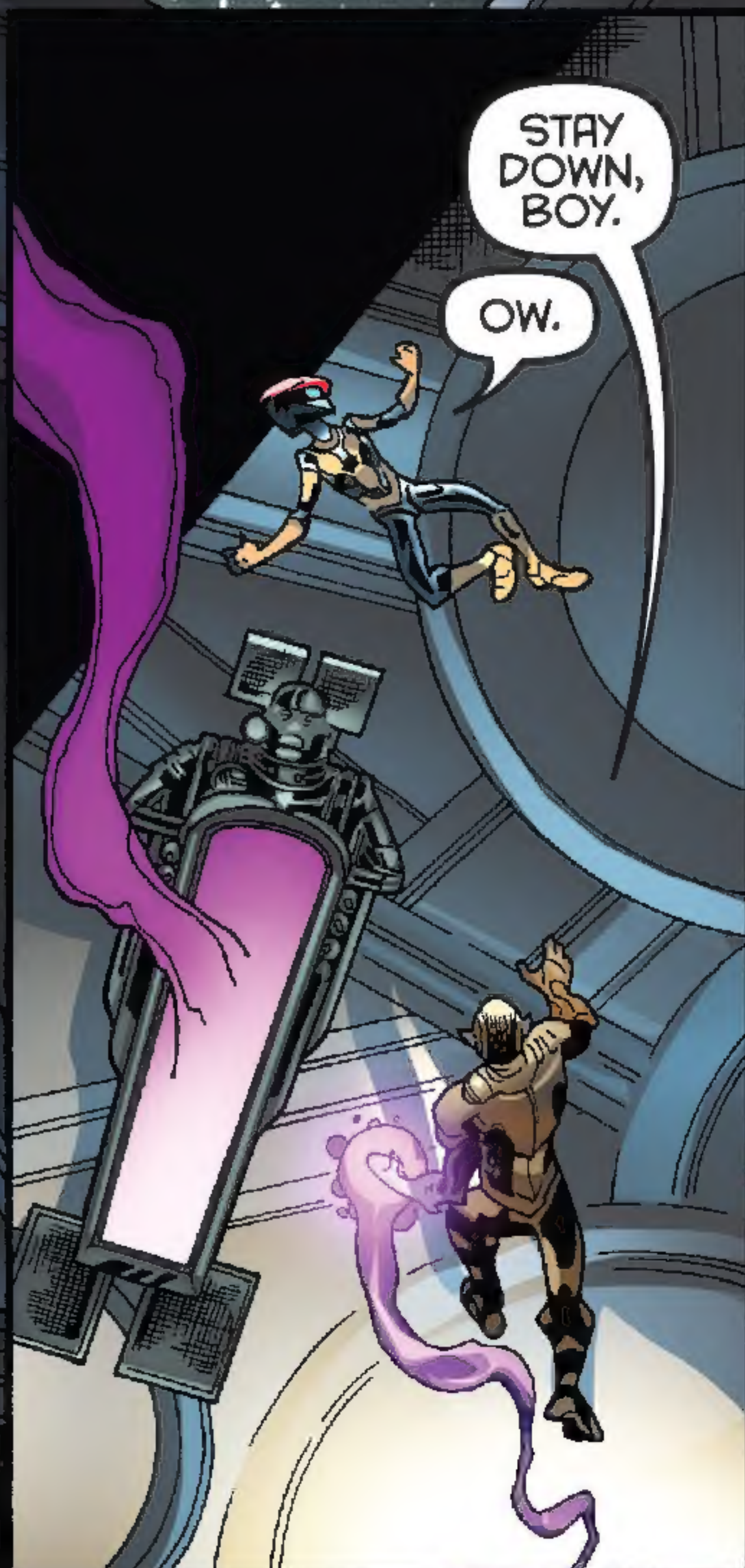
YOU'RE
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE!

DROP THE
VORTEX!

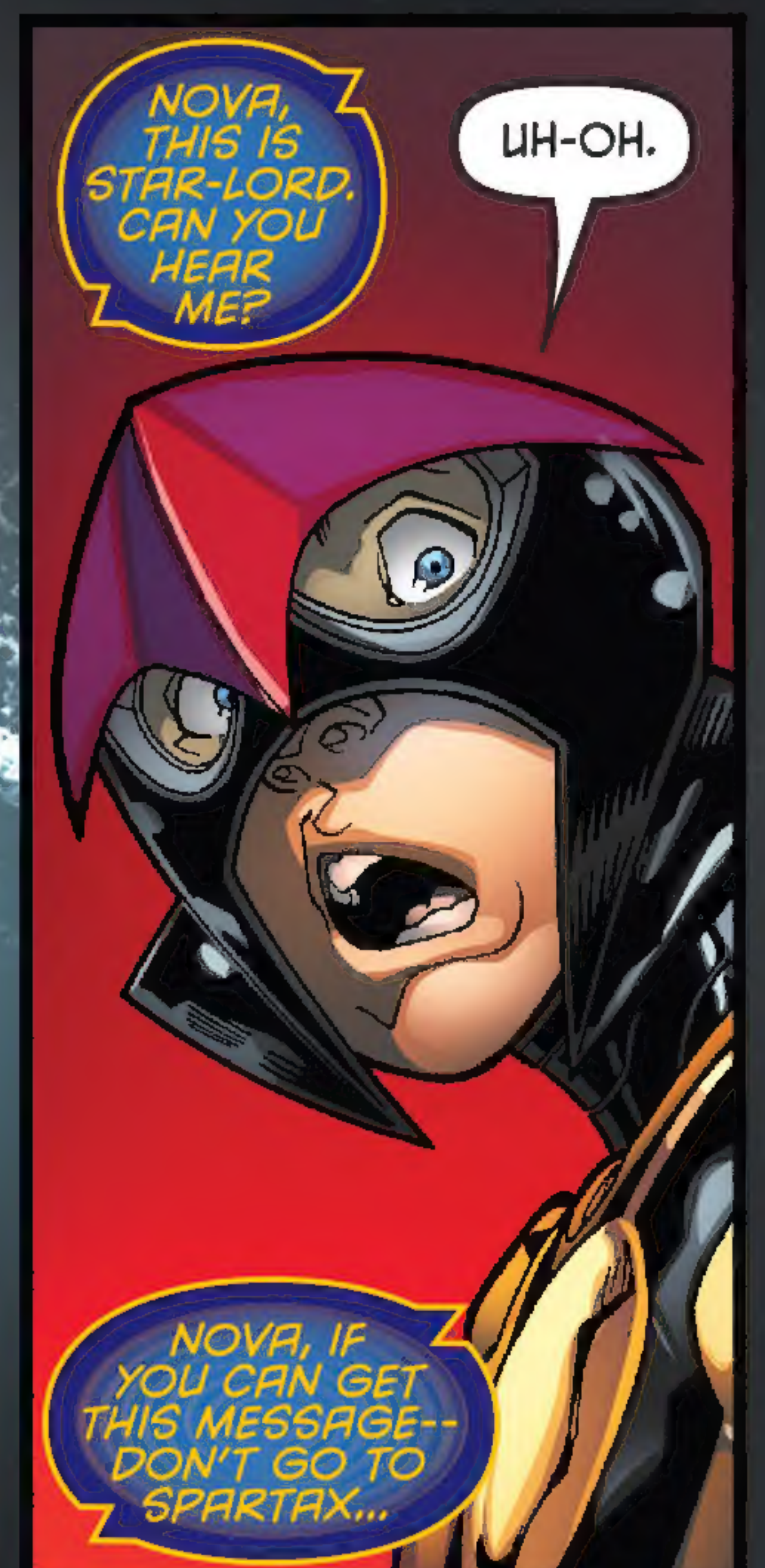


FWASH

UGGHN.



OKAY, I'VE NEVER PLAYED FOOTBALL, BUT I GUESS THIS IS KIND OF LIKE RUNNING A TOUCHDOWN INTO YOUR OWN ENDZONE.





...WE'RE
NOT
THERE.

YES,
I KNOW
THAT.
NOW.

WHAT WERE
YOU SAYING, BOY?
I BELIEVE YOU WERE
THREATENING ME?

TO BE CONTINUED IN
STAR-LORD #10
AND BE BACK IN
NOVA #29
FOR PART ONE OF
"A SORT OF HOMECOMING..."

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

THE BLACK VORTEX

CHAPTER 6

FOLLOW THE SAGA OF THE BLACK VORTEX IN
LEGENDARY STAR-LORD #10

**ON-SALE
FEBRUARY**

~~THE BLACK
VORTEX ALPHA #1~~

~~GUARDIANS OF
THE GALAXY #24~~

~~LEGENDARY
STAR-LORD #9~~

~~ALL NEW
X-MEN #28~~

**ON-SALE
MARCH**

~~ALL NEW
X-MEN #29~~

~~GUARDIANS
TEAM-UP #5~~

~~GUARDIANS OF
THE GALAXY #25~~

NOVA #28

LEGENDARY
STAR-LORD #10

**ON-SALE
APRIL**
CYCLOPS #12

CAPTAIN
MARVEL #14

LEGENDARY
STAR-LORD #11

THE BLACK VORTEX
OMEGA #1

COVER ART BY PACO MEDINA

